

MEMORANDUM FOR:

stal (OSWR)

This is my little piece of self-congratulatory propaganda on the CW use intell. effort, for the Congressional budget submission.

Haus

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FORM 5-75 101 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

o Analysis and evaluation of all of these data by competent scientists and laboratories, and presentation of the results in scientifically persuasive form.

By mid-1981, this effort had yielded the first piece of scientific proof that mycotoxins of the tricothecene group had been dispensed by Vietnamese forces upon H'Mong villagers in Laos. It enabled then-Secretary of State Alexander Haig to announce in a Berlin speech in September of that year that the US had physical evidence that the Soviet Union and its allies were using lethal chemical and toxin weapons in Southeast Asia.

The intelligence effort bore major fruit in February, 1982, with the issuance of an all-source Special National Intelligence Estimate, setting forth all of the accumulated evidence on chemical warfare activities in Southeast Asia and Afghanistan. The Estimate was subsequently "sanitized," and an unclassified version was transmitted by the Secretary of State to the Congress and the United Nations in March. Concurrently, a State Department briefing team, with substantial intelligence participation, visited eleven countries to inform them in detail of the US findings and to encourage them to develop their own independent investigations of the issue, in the hope that a more broadly based international outcry would put pressure on the Soviet government to put a stop to the chemical attacks.

Unfortunately, this result has not yet been achieved. A most recent intelligence update of the earlier report, just released by the Secretary of State to the Congress on 29 November, documents the disappointing conclusions that the chemical attacks have continued unabated.

Chemical Warfare in Southeast Asia and Afghanistan

Ever since the grim experience of World War I, mankind has viewed the use of chemical and toxin weapons with particular abhorrence. The 1925 Geneva Protocol, one of the oldest arms control agreements still in force, forbids the use of such weapons in war. The 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention prohibits the mere possession of toxin weapons. Thus, when reports began to trickle out of Southeast Asia beginning in 1976, and out of Afghanistan beginning in 1979, that lethal chemical substances were being used against native villagers and resistance forces, they were greeted with great skepticism. As the flow of reports continued, however, the intelligence community was called upon to review the validity of those reports and establish a credible basis of fact.

The request led to a major and intensive intelligence collection and analysis undertaking that involved virtually all elements of the community. Among other activities, it included:

- o Assembling, screening and tabulating innumerable pieces of eyewitness testimony obtained from victims of attacks,
- o Interviews of medical personnel,
- o Studies by medical-toxicological experts and investigative teams,
- o Establishment of an extensive environmental sample collection program,
- o Conduct of systematic medical examinations, including blood samples and autopsies, and, most important,

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